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## Equine Rabies

R. J. Beamer

*Iowa State College*

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caught in clamps faced with old rubber tires, to experience the snip which makes a steer of him. In the yards there may be roping and the smell of the branding iron putting the permanent W brand on King cattle.

### Spring Shipping

Like most ranches the supreme ceremonial of the King ranch year is the spring shipping. Over 17,000 head are shipped out every spring. The loading of the cattle on fifty cars a day for three weeks is an American solemnity which is participated in by a variety of dignitaries such as the railroad's livestock agent, a car knocker, shipper, branch checker, ranch veterinarian, ranch banker, federal tick inspectors, neighbors and leading citizens. It signifies the conclusion of a year of shrewd planning and hard work on the part of everyone from the ranch foreman on down to the Mexican cowboys. But more important to Bob Kleberg and the other King heirs, the

spring shipping determines the financial status of the King domain. Every time the price of beef goes up one cent a pound, the ranch makes \$200,000. Unfortunately, the opposite also holds true.


## Equine Rabies

R. J. BEAMER  
(Class of 1940)

Although rabies in our domesticated animals is not nearly as prevalent as it was a number of years ago, nevertheless during the summer months, cases seem to spring up around the country. All of our domesticated animals are susceptible, but the cases usually appear in cattle and dogs, and more rarely in horses. The spread of the disease is usually brought about by the bite of an infected animal.

While working with Dr. Potter at Iowa City this summer I was fortunate enough to be able to see a case of equine rabies. On the evening of July 17 we were called

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to examine a horse that had been acting unusually queer all that day. The owner gave the history of the case as starting that morning. When he entered the barn that morning the horse kicked him. This was unusual, because even though the gelding was only a four year old, he was quite gentle. The owner came to the conclusion that he had surprised the horse and let it go at that. The horse was left in the barn that day, and as the owner was working near the buildings he could hear him pounding around and whinnying. He also noticed that the gelding's voice was changing to that of a stallion, and also at times he showed the sexual characteristics of a stallion. That night when the owner led the horse out to water the animal attacked him and chased him all about the yard. He managed to coax the gelding back into the barn and then called Dr. Potter.

When we arrived on the scene the horse was standing in the stall nonchalantly chewing some hay, but appearing very nervous at the slightest sound. When we

walked in front of the manger the horse immediately bared his teeth and lunged at us. We hid ourselves and watched the animal for some time, and at every little noise he would lunge. We immediately suspected rabies and decided to wait until morning to see how the animal behaved.

About six o'clock the next morning the owner called and said the horse had killed itself in the stall sometime during the night. The horse was removed to the rendering plant and a post mortem examination was made. The only gross lesion present was a ruptured diaphragm, this no doubt having occurred in the stall. The brain was removed and taken to the Iowa University Diagnostic Laboratory where smears were made of the hippocampus of the brain. No Negri bodies were discernable so an extract was made of the tissues and injected into some white rats. In fourteen days the rats became ill, and the condition was diagnosed as rabies thereby satisfying our own minds and also verifying our diagnosis.